

March 6, 1980

LB 974

in the past eleven years that became law but I have passed out for your perusal an editorial in the local paper that appeared on Monday.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I would like to be able to complete this if there is no objection. This editorial is one of many which has appeared and attacks me personally in a manner to indicate that perhaps I have attempted to hide from the members of this body and the public the fact that I own and operate an irrigated farm. I have said it many times publicly. I have stated my reasons why I have felt it was necessary for me to introduce certain types of legislation and to oppose others.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, can I interrupt you? Are you asking unanimous consent for additional time?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I did.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any objection?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I think that, Mr. President and members of this Legislature, that if we are going to be so sanctimonious about our efforts to control the contributions to various political candidates that there ought to be some kind of solution for those of us who are consistently attacked editorially by the publications whose views do not happen to coincide with our own. Try to buy the editorial page of the World Herald, if you will, ladies and gentlemen. You can't do it, but if you happen to knuckle under to a particular point of view which a nameless, faceless, gutless, spineless, writer happens to espouse, then you are touted as a servant of the people. If on the other hand, you truly represent the people who have elected you and re-elected you, not once or twice, but three times, you are pictured and portrayed as someone who is less than responsible as a land baron, as a person who would destroy and waste the resources of this state. Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, before you cut and run for cover, I ask you to stand up and speak out about the right of individual citizens to support candidates as they see fit for those offices which they see fit to run for. If we, as legislators, allow ourselves to be pushed around, allow ourselves to be intimidated, allow ourselves to be brainwashed, because someone who hasn't even got the courage to sign his name to an editorial, chooses to use that vehicle day after day after day, then we are in one sad state of affairs. We